

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Previously Presented) A process for purifying human interferon beta from a recombinant human interferon beta-containing culture comprising performing affinity chromatography and cation exchange chromatography,

wherein the affinity chromatography comprises:

adsorbing the interferon beta-containing culture to an equilibrated affinity chromatography column, followed by washing with an equilibration buffer solution;

followed by washing the column with a first washing buffer solution A of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 30-60 wt% of propylene glycol;

followed by washing the column with a second washing buffer solution C of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 1-2M NaCl;

followed by washing the column with a third washing buffer solution B of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 10-30 wt% of propylene glycol and 1-2M NaCl; and

then eluting a human interferon beta-containing fraction with a buffer solution of pH 6.5-7.5 containing 40-60 wt% of propylene glycol and 1-2M NaCl.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Previously Presented) The process of claim 1, wherein each buffer solution used in the washing and the elution is a sodium phosphate buffer solution or a potassium phosphate buffer solution.

4. (Currently Amended) The process of claim 1, wherein a solution obtained by the affinity chromatography ~~is~~, before the cation exchange chromatography, is subjected to diafiltration with an ultrafiltration membrane with a molecular weight cut-off of 10,000 daltons.

5. (Original) The process of claim 4, wherein in the cation exchange chromatography, a sample obtained by the diafiltration is loaded on a column and then a human interferon beta-containing fraction is eluted at pH 5-7 by a concentration gradient of NaCl.